

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
STANFORD UNIVERSITY, STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

February 22, 1978

JOSHUA LEDERBERG
JOSEPH D. GRANT PROFESSOR
OF GENETICS

Dr. Victor F. Weisskopf
Department of Physics
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Dr. Weisskopf:

This is to urge that the American Academy of Arts and Sciences consider joint sponsorship of, and active participation in, an international conference on the application of advanced scientific, economic and educational technology to Arab-Israeli cooperative development in the Middle East.

Rev. Theodore Hesburgh has discussed with the American Academic Association for Peace in the Middle East and the Committee for an Effective UNESCO the cooperation of Notre Dame University as the host institution for such a meeting. Moreover he has invited Msgr. Joseph Gremillion, a Fellow at Notre Dame and Director of the recently created Interreligious Colloquium for Peace, to assist in its planning and implementation.

Foremost among the aims of the conference would be the supportive role that American scholars can play towards Egypt and Israel's efforts to achieve a genuine peace in the area. It is, for obvious reasons, most timely to build the conceptual framework for regional cooperation in which Israel, Egypt and other Arab nations could begin to utilize their intellectual and material resources for mutual benefit and growth. An international meeting of scholars from these and other interested western and eastern countries could contribute to this development.

It would seem to be the type of international endeavor which would warrant support from an international body such as UNESCO through the United States National Commission for UNESCO. Perhaps the Commission has program funds available for such a purpose.

The Academy could be the key organization in effectuating this joint project, by recruiting a broad range of our colleagues who could credibly contribute to the planning of programs of regional development in the Middle East, without narrow political precommitments.

Sincerely yours,

JL/gel

cc: Father Hesburgh

Ruth Levine, Committee for an Effective UNESCO